

# CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • MARCH 2003

## MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW INDICATES \$700,000 REDUCTION

With the news filled of details about the State's fiscal crisis and notices of layoffs and closures at Silicon Valley companies, you may wonder how the continuing recession is impacting the City's finances. Our midyear budget review indicates that General Fund revenues are projected to be \$700,000 lower than currently budgeted due largely to reduced sales taxes receipts. The City's General Fund reserve will enable us to continue this fiscal year without drastically cutting City services.

The total budget shortfall facing the City this year would have been \$1.1 million had the City not already taken action to cut spending. When a budget shortfall was originally predicted in November, the City Council directed staff to reduce General Fund expenditures by \$400,000.

As many Morgan Hill residents have personally experienced, the local economy has declined. At the same time, the State of California threatens to cut the City's revenues in order to balance the State budget. To date the State has:

1. Eliminated mandated cost reimbursements, costing the General Fund \$100,000; and
2. Taken away \$600,000 from the RDA through a property tax shift.

### WHAT IS PARTICULARLY ALARMING IS THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS PROPOSED:

1. Eliminating City revenues from vehicle license fees, costing the City \$700,000 in 2002/03 and \$1.4 million (plus growth) annually beginning in 2003/04;
2. Eliminating reimbursement of mandated costs for booking prisoners at the County jail; and


### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE'S NEW HOME
- LOCAL BUSINESS SURVEY IN PROCESS
- JOIN US FOR CITY BEAUTIFICATION DAY

## Is LOCAL BUSINESS SURVIVING THE ROUGH ECONOMY?

The City of Morgan Hill and the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce are conducting a written survey to obtain a general sense of the business community's level of satisfaction with the community as a whole, as well as to gauge the overall health of Morgan Hill's local businesses.


The survey is an integral part of the City's overall business retention and expansion program. Over the next several months, the Chamber will be mailing out surveys, compiling results and analyzing the data to determine what follow-up actions are needed to ensure companies remain or expand their operations in town.

For more information on the survey, please contact Sunday Minnich, Executive Director of the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce at 779-9444 or Garrett Toy, Director of Business Assistance & Housing Services at 776-7373. 

*Article by Garrett Toy, Director of Business Assistance and Housing Services, 776-7373 or [babs@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:babs@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov)*

■ SEE "BUDGET" PAGE 2

3. Increasing the RDA tax increment shift to \$2 million in 2003/04 and by 5% per year thereafter.

Both in anticipation of these State actions and in response to the downturn in the local economy, the City has frozen hiring and deferred nonessential spending. In addition, the City Council has directed staff to present a recommended fiscal year 2003/04 fiscal year budget that includes a sustainable expenditure level. To meet this very challenging goal, staff and the City Council have identified a variety of tools with which the City may provide necessary services to the public, prudently manage City resources, and strategically plan for the future. 

Article by Jack Dilles, Director of Finance, 779-7221 or [Dillesj@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:Dillesj@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov)

## DO YOU NEED A CITY BUSINESS LICENSE?

Cities in California have had the authority to levy business license taxes for many years. In fact, the City of Morgan Hill first established a business license tax ordinance in the 1930's. The taxes collected under this ordinance help pay the costs of general city services such as public safety, parks and recreation and represent about 1.2% of the City's general fund revenues. Recent improvements in technology will make enforcement of the regulations much easier, thereby ensuring that all businesses conducting business within the City comply with the City's ordinance.

The City of Morgan Hill's business license ordinance is administered by the Finance Department. Assistance with the application process, questions regarding fees or business types, and bilingual assistance is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### *Do I need a business license?*


All persons or companies conducting business within the city limits of Morgan Hill are required

■ SEE "LICENSE" PAGE 3


## VAGABOND DAYS OVER FOR SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

Last November, the City Council designated South Valley Civic Theatre (SVCT) as the Home Company of the new Morgan Hill Community Playhouse. SVCT has been performing in a variety of venues throughout the South County, including high schools, a shopping center, and the Pumpkin Patch in San Martin, for over 30 years. Thanks to the City, their days of searching for a place to perform are over. As the Home Company of the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse, SVCT will be given first choice of the Playhouse master calendar dates for their performances and rehearsals. SVCT has committed to five productions per year.


On January 31, the City held a Gala Grand Opening for the Playhouse. The following week, SVCT opened with its first show, "Lend Me A Tenor," which ran the month of February. SVCT's second show at the Playhouse, "Follow That Rabbit," is a takeoff on Alice in Wonderland, "a modern view of a classic where nonsense makes perfect sense." Performances begin March 21st and run through April 12th. The final show of the 2002/2003 Season will be a musical, "Sugar," with performances from May 16th through June 7th. Based on the film "Some Like it Hot," Sugar chronicles the zany lives of two prohibition era musicians who witness a gang slaying.


There is lots of great entertainment in store now that the City has a new playhouse and a home theater company! So instead of staying at home, watching TV, or going to a movie, come see SVCT at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse. Ticket prices are \$15.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students and seniors. In Morgan Hill, they can be purchased at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center and at Booksmart. For more information, call 842-SHOW or visit SVCT's web site at [www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org). 

Article by Joyce Maskell, Business and Housing Assistance Manager, 776-7373, [Maskellj@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:Maskellj@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov)




# WINNER'S CIRCLE





## REMINDER



**Recycle your  
old phonebook  
when your new  
phonebook  
arrives (it's  
mixed paper).**

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■ **"LICENSE" FROM PAGE 2**

to obtain a business license. Conducting business is defined as conducting, managing or carrying on a profession, business, trade or occupation for profit or livelihood.

***Where do I get an application?***

You can obtain an application from the City of Morgan Hill Finance Department, in person or by calling 779-7237, or by downloading the form from the City's website at [www.morgan-hill.ca.gov](http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov).

***When do I have to file the application?***

Applications must be submitted and fees paid prior to conducting business within city limits.

***How long is my license valid?***

Business licenses are issued on a fiscal year basis and are valid from July to June. All business licenses expire on June 30 and must be renewed annually.

***What are the fees for a business license?***


The fees vary by business category. The most common categories are home based, fixed place of business, professional and no fixed place of business. A complete list of fees is available from the Finance Department or the City's website. For example, the annual fee for a small manufacturer of twenty employees is \$128. In addition to license fees, there are onetime fees for application review and zoning compliance.

***I operate a nonprofit organization. Do I need a business license?***

Yes, however the business license tax is waived for nonprofit organizations registered with the Secretary of State. Other onetime fees apply.

***Does a business license give me the right to conduct business?***

Your business license is not a permit to operate and does not authorize you to operate a business that is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance.

For additional information or assistance with your business license needs, please contact the Finance Department at 779-7237. 

Article by Tina Reza, Assistant Finance Director,  
[Rezat@cb.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:Rezat@cb.morgan-hill.ca.gov)

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## Want To Be A Part Of Your City Government?

The Following Volunteer Positions Are Available:

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
LIBRARY COMMISSION  
MOBILE HOME RENT STABILIZATION COMMISSION  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
BICYCLE & TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For an application or further information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 779-7259.

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### Are you looking for a fun way to spend a Saturday morning? Would you like to see a more beautiful Morgan Hill? Are you interested in civic improvement?

**I**f you answered yes to any of the above, then City Beautification Day is for you!

City Beautification Day is an opportunity to engage in projects throughout the City that enhance the community's appearance.

Sample projects include tree or shrub planting, cleanup and painting, and vegetation trimming. Groups are welcome to participate too.

Join us on Saturday, April 26th at 8:00AM at City Hall located at 17555 Peak Avenue. Volunteers are invited to celebrate with a Barbecue at Community Park at 12:00 noon. To learn more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247. 

# MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

## CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	3/5	7PM LIVE
	3/6	NOON REPLAY
	3/8	8PM REPLAY
	3/9	NOON REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	3/19	7PM LIVE
	3/20	NOON REPLAY
	3/22	8PM REPLAY
	3/23	NOON REPLAY

### REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SESSION:

3/26	7PM LIVE
3/27	NOON REPLAY
3/29	8PM REPLAY
3/30	NOON REPLAY

### PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION:	3/11	7PM LIVE
	3/12	NOON REPLAY
	3/15	NOON REPLAY
	3/16	8PM REPLAY
REGULAR SESSION:	3/25	7PM LIVE
	3/26	NOON REPLAY
	3/29	NOON REPLAY
	3/30	8PM REPLAY

BICYCLE SAFETY HOUR FOR EVERYONE 9:30AM & 4:30PM DAILY  
7PM FRIDAY

WATER WISE GARDENING 10:30AM & 5:30PM DAILY  
8:00PM FRIDAY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

### BLOOD DRIVE • MARCH 10TH

Would you like to donate blood? Please consider participating in the Morgan Hill Community Blood Drive on March 10th from 10AM-3PM. The event will be held at the Culinary Express Masonic Center on 380 W. Dunne Avenue. To make an appointment, visit [www.beadonor.com](http://www.beadonor.com) (sponsor code MORGAN) or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

### CESAR CHAVEZ DAY • MARCH 31ST

City offices will be closed on March 31st for Cesar Chavez Day. Regular garbage and recycling service schedules will apply.

### CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor <b>Dennis Kennedy</b>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <b>Hedy L. Chang</b>	778-0511
Councilmember <b>Larry Carr</b>	779-9622
Councilmember <b>Greg Sellers</b>	778-2370
Councilmember <b>Steve Tate</b>	779-6992
City Clerk <b>Irma Torrez</b>	779-7259
City Treasurer <b>Michael Roorda</b>	778-3653

### CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager <b>J. Edward Tewes</b>
City Attorney <b>Helene L. Leichter</b>
Assistant To The City Manager <b>Melissa Stevenson Dile</b>
Assistant To The City Manager <b>Anthony Eulo</b>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <b>Garrett Toy</b>
Community Development Director <b>David Bischoff</b>
Council Services and Records Manager <b>Irma Torrez</b>
Finance Director <b>Jack Dilles</b>
Human Resources Director <b>Mary Kaye Fisher</b>
Police Chief <b>Gerald T. Galvin</b>
Public Works Director <b>Jim Ashcraft</b>
Recreation and Community Services Manager <b>Julie Spier</b>

### CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community & Cultural Center	782-0008
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation & Community Services	782-0008
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117
City Website: <a href="http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov">http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov</a>	

### CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or

[environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov). City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

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